KDE Literacy Update for KRA

Core Content Revisions for Reading and Writing
        The Core Content for Assessment documents have been undergoing revisions to the 4.0 Version for implementation in the 2006-2007 school year. Advisory groups and committees of teachers worked on the revisions to better align our state assessment to national standards such as NAEP, NCTE, and the American Diploma Project. The revised drafts were posted to the KDE website for review by teachers and administrators, and the Content Advisory Committees met in June and reviewed the documents as part of their work on test item development. The 4.0 Version is available now on the web, and information and training in the use of the new document will be provided throughout the year.

House Bill 93
        A new measure affecting grades four through twelve is HB 93/GA, which at first glance may look like it only applies to Math. However, it creates a new section of KRS Chapter 158 "to stress the importance of the gateway skills of reading and math." It will give "priority to training and support of reading mathematics coaches and mentors, June 1, 2006, through the 2009-2010 school year." It also places "emphasis on reading diagnostics for intervention services for students grades four to twelve." More information will be shared as it becomes available.

Read to Achieve
        Schools who applied for and received grants were notified in mid-August, and monies were distributed as of Sept. 1. To be eligible for this round of funding, K-3 schools with low achieving students could not have received current Reading First or Read to Achieve grants. A percentage was set aside for coal producing counties. Schools were awarded up to $70,000 for a one-year grant period.

Textbook Adoption
        2006 is textbook adoption year for English/LA courses. A consumer guide is being prepared for release on Nov. 15 and will be available through the web and/or a CD. Teachers reviewed texts over the summer, and the approved list is available as of Sept. 9th. Showcase sites will be available to teachers for review of materials and information from publishers. To obtain information on adopting a text not on the approved list, contact the KDE Textbook Consultant, Ann Asbeck, @ Ann.Asbeck@education.ky.gov.